

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



**REMARKS BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
PATENGA COASTAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER
GRAND OPENING
PATENGA, CHITTAGONG
MARCH 13, 2013**

Honorable Minister of Home Affairs Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir

Director General Bangladesh Coast Guard Rear Admiral Kazi Sarwar Hossain

Honorable M.A. Latif, MP

Honorable Alhaj Mohammad Manjur Alam, Mayor, Chittagong City Corporation

Distinguished officers and members of the Bangladesh military, colleagues and friends

We stand today in a hallowed place ...

... a place battered over the decades and centuries by horrific cyclones and tidal surges ...

... a place where countless hundreds and thousands have died.

Today, we gather here to add a new chapter to the history of Patenga ...

... we gather here to dedicate the first Coastal Crisis Management Center.

Other Coastal Crisis Management Centers are now under construction along Bangladesh's entire coast line from Teknaf to Satkhira.

Eventually, there will be thirty of these Centers ... and these Centers are absolutely amazing.

They will be permanently manned by the Bangladesh Coast Guard ...

... and they will be outfitted with cyclone-proof communication systems that will enable them to communicate with Dhaka immediately to relay the extent of damage so the government can dispatch search and rescue teams to the areas most affected by the storm.

First responders from the Ministry of Home Affairs will be able to respond quickly to those areas most in need to help, thus saving countless lives.

These Centers will also support continuing efforts by the Bangladesh Coast Guard to monitor Bangladesh's waters and sea lanes.

These Centers are the result of the strong partnership between America and Bangladesh to protect the wonderful people of Bangladesh from natural disasters.

America is building and equipping these Coastal Crisis Management Centers at a cost of nearly \$1 million each. The Bangladesh Coast Guard is shouldering the heavy responsibility of manning these Centers around the clock.

I am proud of America's partnership with Bangladesh to help the nation cope with horrific cyclones and tidal surges. As I said, America is partnering with Bangladesh to build a total of 30 Coastal Crisis Management centers, like this one at Patenga. In addition we are building another 100 cyclone shelters, which we can add to the 547 that we have already built or rebuild

Each of these shelters will provide refuge for up to 1500 people when the next cyclone hits.

I am really proud that this partnership between America and Bangladesh has already saved so many lives from cyclones and surges.

I look forward to the day when all the Coastal Crisis Management Centers are finished, so the people of Bangladesh will be even more prepared to cope with and defeat the next natural disaster.

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**As prepared for delivery*